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BOOK TABLE.

The Reconstruction of Europe. By Harold Murdock. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1890. Pages, 420. Price, \$1.75.

Prof. John Fisk writes an introduction to this fascinating volume. It contains a fine and helpful index, and is too brief, inasmuch as it stops with the Franco-German war, 1871. It is a panorama of twenty-one years of national history which is, of course, more reliable than the daily record in contemporaneous newspapers, because the writer had access to documents which were concealed at the time. But, like a history of the civil war in America, these pages record what has passed before the eyes of the present generation. Europe has been reconstructed. Cleft by the sword and tacked together by diplomacy, its political divisions are as unlike those which we as children learned, as are those of ancient and modern geography.

We called the book "fascinating." The style is vigorous and graphic, but the fascination is in the originators and actors in the marvellous events and in the events themselves. It is a history too full of "drum and trumpet." Noise, confusion, garments rolled in blood,—such is the record. It reads like a daily paper, the chief contents of which are burglaries, suicides, murders, fires and accidents. The chief difference is the absence of epithets, such as are apt to be bestowed on individual actors in these sensational horrors. The kings, princes, prime ministers, generals and diplomats who plan wars and execute those plans in the robbery of the rich and poor, the murder of the innocent and unoffending, and who countenance outrages on the persons of men and women, consuming with incendiary torch the houses, stores, shops and factories of the people, starving one great city into submission and surrender, are usually mentioned as scientifically skillful or not, diplomatically wise or unwise, etc., *ad nauseam*.

The outcome—"reconstructed Europe"—is, as Professor Fisk remarks in the introduction, good. The means employed were cruel, bloody, impoverishing, barbarous, immoral, and, of course, unchristian. It would not be difficult in many cases to see the fitness of such epithets to the inspiring motives of rulers, diplomats and even nations. National vanity and traditional love of military glory led the great body of the French people to fall in with the Empress in her selfish and bloody policy of firmly seating herself and husband on the throne of France by a successful foreign war. Bismarck's arming and drilling of Prussia was for the purpose of humbling Austria first, as it did, and then France. He unified Germany by exalting Prussia and conquering France. He sacrificed to accomplish this end the lives of a million men. National unity, desirable in itself as promoting perpetual peace, was, like Napoleon Third's *coup d'état*, founded on crime—crime not of others but of the chief actors. Napoleon took the sword and perished by the sword. Bismarck is comforted in old age by the unity of Germany, the glory of Prussia, and the popularity that follows success however achieved. But his peace is said to be disturbed by his conscience as well as by his German enemies who love liberty, and his French enemies who are bent on retaking their lost provinces and on revenge.

Twenty-one years of war have reconstructed Europe; but fifty years of peace are needed to heal its bleeding wounds.

Is it Mary, or the Lady of the Jesuits? By Justin D. Fulton, D.D., President of the Pauline Propaganda, and author of "Why Priests should Wed," "Rome in America," "The Fight with Rome," "Washington in the Lap of Rome," "The Way Out," etc. Published by the American Co., Boston, Mass. Price, 25 cents.

We have a copy of the above named book sent by the publishers and have read its statements with sadness. If true, they must grieve the heart of every Catholic laboring for the purity of his church. They will also grieve the heart of every devout person. Such a man is always on the outlook for goodness and fails to be gratified when even his opponent does wrong. Our own feeling is that while this book may be literally true, its spirit is that of its author, which in many able discourses and bold and unwearied efforts seems to be not so much the spirit of Christ as of Elijah and of the other ancient prophets whose bloody denunciations were accompanied by "hewings." The methods and spirit of a Christian reformer ought not to be other than the method and spirit of Christ. Dr. Fulton often seems to feel justified in the use of violent and extravagant words in the pulpit and in print by the intense wickedness he believes to be in the object attacked. All sin should excite in us opposition so intense and enthusiastic as to make us persistent in the employment of all right means of destroying it. When provocation excites virulence it conquers.

The Shop. By Albert E. Winship. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. Price, 60 cents.

The pen of the author has again demonstrated his versatility. He can do more things and do each well than most men who are as busy. "The Shop" is his way of naming those persons who, in the new demands of modern industry, are associated together in work. The author may never have been a workingman, if not, he has shown a marvellous insight into the ways, talk, life and influence of these growing and influential communities. He does not overestimate the intelligence, acumen and influence of "The Shop." He has drawn his information from first sources and writes in complete sympathy with the trials, temptations, ideas and pleasures of the shop. He depicts in simple and graphic style, the character, impressions and influence of shopmen at work, at play, at home, at school and at church. To each subject a chapter is devoted, introduced by apt quotations.

This little book of 78 pages invites perusal and rewards it. It is an eye opener to those whose avocations deprive them of the privilege of observation. It is just what an industrious mechanic needs to read about himself and his companions. Readable, elevating and ennobling, may this little book find the large place it deserves in literature and popular reading.

The Complete Works of Walter Bagehot. 5 vols., pages, 2700. Price, \$5.00. Hartford, Ct.: Travellers Insurance Co.

These five volumes offered at at least one-half the usual publisher's price are the first complete edition of the author's works, and contain a memoir and a portrait. The whole carefully edited and annotated by Forrest Morgan. The following is the table of contents:

Vol. I.—Editor's Preface; Memoirs of Bagehot by Mr. Hutton; Literary Studies (First Edinburgh Reviewers; Hartley Coleridge; Shelley; Béranger; Clough; Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning; Shakespeare; Milton; Mary Wortley Montagu; Cowper); App. (Translations).